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The Bais lowland, a sugar cane region, was created by the confluence of several large rivers, e.g., Panambalan, Lotan, Montenegro, and Tanjay. Small valley floors extend back into the mountains, up each river, making a many-fingered interior boundary for this lowland. This lowland was probably one of the areas first settled, and in 1845 had the densest population in Negros, according to Buzeta.[19] [67]

The Eastern Coastal plains are like a broken chain, linking the San Carlos and the Bais lowlands.

> Wherever a river breaches the mountain wall and debouches onto the coast, a small alluvial plain or delta is formed. On the larger of these plains are located the municipalities, such as Guihulngan, La Libertad, Tayasan, and Ayungon. Where there is limited level land, small barrios or sitios of only a few houses are found. Since many of these plains are relatively isolated from one another, the agriculture has tended to be mainly a subsistence economy.[20]

Guihulngan is a small interisland port with daily shipping connections with Cebu.

The San Carlos lowland extends about 30 miles along the eastern coast of Negros. To the lowland's west the mountains rise abruptly to elevations of four to six thousand feet. This alluvial lowland is almost entirely

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[19] Manuel Buzeta and Felipe Bravo, Diccionario Geográfico, Estadístico, Histórico, de las Islas Filipinas. Madrid, 1851, pp.555-9. Wernstedt, op. cit., p.91, Plate I, has an 1845 population map of Negros.

[20] Wernstedt, op. cit., p.19.

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For the barriofolk of Caticugan and the residents of Siaton poblacion today the Negritos and Bukidnons are people who are seldom discussed and rarely seen.

Siaton's first Chinese settled in the poblacion during the Spanish period, two unrelated bachelors who had been born in Amoy. Opening stores in the poblacion, they soon married local girls. By 1932 there were reported to be six "full-blooded" Chinese storekeepers in the poblacion while in 1953 there were only four Chinese merchants. Two of these Chinese were mestizos and the other two were born in Canton.

In 1951, under the Alien Registration Act, 850 Chinese living in Negros Oriental registered at Dumaguete. This figure did not include Chinese mestizos or Chinese who are naturalized citizens of the Republic. Of the 850 Chinese who registered, less than 10 per cent were Cantonese, the rest emigrants from southern Fukien. Cheng writes: "In the case of Dumaguete, most of the Fukienese came from the island of Amoy in the southern part of the province, with a smaller number coming from neighboring villages and hsiens [towns or administrative districts] of Lungki and Tsinkiang in sharp contrast with Manila where the reverse is true."[62] At present the

[62] Thomas S. Cheng, "A Cultural Study of the Chinese Community," Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, March 26, 1951, p. 3. Unpublished student report; typescript. Cheng calls Lungki by its former name, Changchow, and refers to Chuanchow now better known as Tsinkiang. Webster's Geographical Dictionary. Springfield, Massachusetts, G. & C. Merriam Company, 1949, pp. 641 and 1163.